

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /122 W

-----076446 011352Z /14

P 310159Z MAR 78 ZFD

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0380

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01175

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: AORG

SUBJECT: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: UNIFIL FINANCING

REFS: (A) STATE O79988, (B) USUN 1162 (NOTAL)

1. FINANCING FOR UNIFIL RAISED DURING AMB. LEONARD'S DISCUSSION WITH LEBANESE PERMREP TUENI MARCH 29 (REPORTED REF B). WE TOLD TUENI WE HOPED THAT SPECIAL UNGA TO ADOPT UNIFIL BUDGET AND DETERMINE APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS AMONG UN MEMBERS WOULD GO OFF WITHOUT SERIOUS DIFFICULTY, AND WE FELT LEBANON HAD AN INTEREST IN AN ORDERLY PROCEEDING ALSO. SOME ATTENTION NOW TO PRELIMINARIES AND TO PREPARATIONS FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WOULD FACILITATE SUCH OUTCOME.

2. WE TOLD TUENI US ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE (A) TO AGREEMENT OF ALL UN MEMBERS TO BE ASSESSED FOR UNIFIL AND (B) TO PAYMENT BY ALL MEMBERS OF THEIR ASSESSED SHARE OF UNIFIL COSTS. WE WANTED TO AVOID REPEATING EXPERIENCE OF
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OTHER MIDDLE EAST PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, FROM WHICH CERTAIN UN MEMBERS HAD WITHHELD FINANCIAL SUPPORT. WE FELT LEBANON HAD A STRONG STAKE IN ALL UN MEMBERS PAYING THEIR ASSESSED SHARE SINCE (A) THIS WOULD MAKE UNIFIL A MORE VIABLE OPERATION, FREE OF THE BICKERING OVER FINANCING THAT AFFLICTS SOME OTHER PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND (B) MEMBER STATES WOULD BE MORE WILLING TO FURNISH TROOPS TO

A FISCALLY SOUND PEACEKEEPING OPERATION. TUENI ENDORSED THIS ANALYSIS READILY, THOUGH HE AND HIS STAFF OBVIOUSLY ARE NOT CONVERSANT WITH FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. WE PROMISED HELP IN FAMILIARIZING THEM WITH THIS PROCESS.

3. WE SUGGESTED TO TUENI THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN INDUCING SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN FINANCING UNIFIL. WE SAID WE COULD APPROACH THE SOVIETS DIRECTLY ON THIS POINT, BUT TO DO SO MIGHT POLARIZE THE MATTER AT THE OUTSET AND DEFEAT OUR PURPOSE.

4. TUENI WAS INITIALLY DUBIOUS ABOUT SOVIET OR EAST EUROPEAN WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL FINANCING. HE AND AMBASSADOR LEONARD EXCHANGED ANALYSES OF SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN BEHAVIOR DURING SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426, AND AGREED THAT BLOC AMBASSADORS HAD REALIZED UNIFIL HAD ENJOYED WIDE SPREAD POPULARITY AMONG DELEGATIONS IN NEW YORK AND HAD SOUGHT TO AVOID SEEMING NEGATIVE TOWARD THE OPERATION. AMB. LEONARD BRIEFED TUENI ON POLAND'S SOMEWHAT WISTFUL STATEMENT THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE A CONTINGENT FOR UNIFIL.

5. TUENI SAID THAT HE FELT THAT NONE OF LITTORAL COUNTRIES
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WOULD WELCOME A SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN. NEVERTHELESS, LEFT WING ELEMENTS IN LEBANON, THE PLO, AND AMONG CERTAIN ARABS WOULD FIND GROUNDS FOR DISRUPTIVE POLITICAL AGITATION NARROWED SHARPLY WERE UNIFIL TO PRESENT THE IMAGE, FOR EXAMPLE, OF EAST EUROPEAN TRUCKS TRANSPORTING NORWEGIAN TROOPS, OR TO ENJOY SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN FINANCIAL BACKING. THIS WOULD THUS HELP TO CONSOLIDATE THE CEASEFIRE.

6. AMB. LEONARD SAID HE THOUGHT THINGS MIGHT BE HELPED TOWARD THIS END WERE MOSCOW AND EAST EUROPEAN CAPITALS TO GET SOME REPORTING INDICATING A FAIRLY WIDE SPREAD EXPECTATION, ESPECIALLY AMONG MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES AND TROOP CONTRIBUTORS, THAT THE BLOC COUNTRIES WOULD PARTICIPATE IN UNIFIL BY PROVIDING MATERIEL AND/OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. TUENI SAID HE WOULD NEED INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO EMBARK UPON STIMULATING SUCH A CONSENSUS. HE SEEMED TO THINK BOTH THE OBJECTIVE AND THE ODDS WORTH THE EFFORT, HOWEVER, AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT AMB. LEONARD'S APPROACH TO BEIRUT. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN01175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0215
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978031/aaaaaakp.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 37ed80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 79988, 78 USUN NEW YORK 1162
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3094897
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN FIFTH COMMITTEE: UNIFIL FINANCING
TAGS: AORG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/37ed80b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014